

were, during the revolution, almost entirely uninhabited. (y) And it also appears, from the periodical enumerations made under the authority of the Union, that although there are, every where, a much greater number of males than females born; yet the diminution of the males as they reach maturity, within many of the counties of this state, the salubrity of which has not been at all changed, is much more rapid than elsewhere, owing to the great emigration from them to the west. From a comparative view of the census of the several states of the Union, it will be seen, that in the elder and most densely peopled of them, the males are most numerous; while in those from which there has been the greatest emigration, and in the newest and frontier states there are not, in many instances, so many as ninety females to every hundred males. (z) Whence it appears, that now, as in the original peopling of Virginia by the English, the first plantings every where in this country, by enticing away the males, or bringing together a much larger proportion of adult males than females, has, by thus separating the sexes, so far operated as a check, instead of an encouragement, to the natural increase of population. (a)

The making of all observations as to the expectation of human life here are, however, not only rendered difficult by the extraordinary shifting of our population; but those difficulties are much increased by the changes continually going on in the salubrity of many situations in our country. The territory of Maryland, when the first settlers seated themselves upon it, was every where covered by a thick and lofty forest, and drained by innumerable rivulets, creeks and rivers all pouring into the great Chesapeake. A territory so shaded, and so netted with humid valleys and water-courses, many of them descending from rugged and elevated mountains, under a climate, ranging from such high degrees of heat in summer, to such low degrees of cold in winter, it is evident, must have been, in its primitive state, productive of causes affecting human life differing materially in malignity from those which had been found to arise over any equal space of Europe. But the active civilized people who took possession of Maryland as they increased in numbers and advanced, felled large spaces of the forest and laid bare, drained, and cultivated the soil. These operations by changing the state of things, may have produced some

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(y) Seybert Stat. Ann. 37.—(z) Seybert Stat. Ann. 40, 42, 45.—(a) 1 Burk's His. Virg. 206; 1 Malthus Popu. 6; 2 Malthus Popu. 54.